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| APPLICATION NO.  | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.       | CONFIRMATION NO.       |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 10/620,184   | 07/15/2003  | Mitsuru Ozono        | 35857                     | 8698                   |
| 116 7590 08/22/2007<br>PEARNE & GORDON LLP<br>1801 EAST 9TH STREET<br>SUITE 1200<br>CLEVELAND, OH 44114-3108 |             |                      | EXAMINER<br>OSELE, MARK A |                        |
|  |             |                      | ART UNIT<br>1734          | PAPER NUMBER           |
|  |             |                      | MAIL DATE<br>08/22/2007   | DELIVERY MODE<br>PAPER |

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/620,184

**Applicant(s)**

OZONO ET AL.

**Examiner**

Mark A. Osele

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-2, 5-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-2 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,709,543 (Kurosawa) in view of either U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0029088 (Odajima et al.) or U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0070517 (Tsujimoto). Kurosawa shows a method and apparatus for picking up a semiconductor chip adhered to a sheet by using a pick up head comprising: a sheet exfoliating step for abutting a suction surface of a sheet exfoliation mechanism, 24a, 24b, 24c, against a lower surface of the sheet, 22, and for performing vacuum-sucking through the suction surface thereby to exfoliate the sheet from the semiconductor chip, 1 (See Fig. 16); and a sucking and holding step of sucking and holding an upper surface of the semiconductor chip from the sheet by the pick-up head, 10, to pick up the semiconductor chip (column 13, lines 45-50), wherein in the sheet exfoliating step, the semiconductor chip, 1, adhered to the sheet, 22, is bent and deformed by a vacuum suction force in a continuous bent range from an outer peripheral portion of one side of

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the chip to an outer peripheral portion of another side of the chip to exfoliate the sheet from a lower surface of the semiconductor chip (See Figs. 19A, 20A, 21A; column 17, lines 13-27, 35-45). Kurosawa fails to show bent range is set in a direction with a predetermined angle of about 45 degrees with respect to a side of the chip.

Odajima et al. shows that tapes can be removed from a wafer with an angle either aligned with an edge of the chips (Fig. 5a) or aligned with the diagonal of the chips from a corner thereof (Fig. 5b). This diagonal angle is 45° respective to the side of the chips. Tsujimoto teaches that it is advantageous to peel adhesive tapes from the corners of chips to avoid breaking the chips (paragraphs 0009 and 0013). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to set the bent range in a direction with a predetermined angle of about 45 degrees with respect to the side of the chip of Kurosawa because because Odajima et al. teaches that peeling tapes from chips at either a 45 degree angle or a 90 degree angle with respect to the side of a chip are functionally equivalent alternate expedients and Tsujimoto teaches that peeling a tape from a chip at a 45 degree angle with respect to the side of a chip lessens the chance of breaking a chip.

4. Claims 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Publication 2001-118862 (Akira) in view of U.S. Patent 6,709,543 (Kurosawa) and either U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0029088 (Odajima et al.) or U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0070517 (Tsujimoto). Akira shows a method and apparatus for picking up a semiconductor chip, 3a, adhered to a sheet, 1, by using a pick up head,

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4a, the apparatus comprising: a holding table for holding the sheet, 1, a sheet exfoliation mechanism, 8a, with a suction surface includes a plurality of grooves, 7a, and a boundary portion which partitions the adjacent grooves wherein the boundary portions are abutted against a lower surface of the sheet, 1, and support the sheet during vacuum-sucking through the suction surface to exfoliate the sheet from the semiconductor chip, 3a (See Fig. 3). Akira fails to show the semiconductor chip to be bent.

Kurosawa teaches that it has become desirable to make semiconductor chips thin in order to fit into thin packages (column 2, lines 6-10) and that thin semiconductor chips are deformed together with the adhesive sheet when suction is applied to the sheet to exfoliate the sheet from the chip (column 2, lines 17-22, 30-45). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use thin semiconductor chips in the apparatus of Akira because Kurosawa teaches the demands of industry for thin chips. Furthermore, the thin chips of the references as combined would be deformed along with the adhesive sheet during the exfoliation vacuum-sucking step of Akira as shown by Kurosawa.

Kurosawa also shows the conventional arrangement of a sheet exfoliation mechanism located beneath a sheet holding table and moving the sheet exfoliation mechanism upward to abut against the adhesive sheet (Figs. 18A, 19A, 20A). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to locate the sheet exfoliation mechanism of Akira beneath the sheet holding table

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because this conventional arrangement allows for movement of all portions of the sheet over the exfoliation mechanism to exfoliate all of the chips from the adhesive sheet.

Odajima et al. shows that tapes can be removed from a wafer with an angle either aligned with an edge of the chips (Fig. 5a) or aligned with the diagonal of the chips from a corner thereof (Fig. 5b). This diagonal angle is  $45^\circ$  respective to the side of the chips. Tsujimoto teaches that it is advantageous to peel adhesive tapes from the corners of chips to avoid breaking the chips (paragraphs 0009 and 0013). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to set the bent range in a direction with a predetermined angle of about 45 degrees with respect to the side of the chip of the references as combined because because Odajima et al. teaches that peeling tapes from chips at either a 45 degree angle or a 90 degree angle with respect to the side of a chip are functionally equivalent alternate expedients and Tsujimoto teaches that peeling a tape from a chip at a 45 degree angle with respect to the side of a chip lessens the chance of breaking a chip.

Regarding claims 7 and 8, the semiconductor chip of the references as combined is rectangular and corner portions of the chip are not positioned directly above the boundary portions.

Regarding claim 9, Kurosawa further shows a plurality of different exfoliating tools for different types of semiconductor chips. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the exfoliating tools of the references as combined freely interchangeable on the exfoliation mechanism to

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make the apparatus flexible as different chips or adhesive sheets are used without requiring a completely different apparatus for each type of chip.

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-2 and 5-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

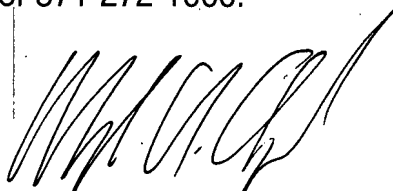
6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Pak shows bending a wafer and tape wherein the peel edge is at a diagonal to the chips of the wafer.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark A. Osele whose telephone number is 571-272-1235. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Philip Tucker can be reached on 571-272-1095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



**MARK A. OSELE**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

August 20, 2007